

COMMITTEE LAUNCHES WORK AGAINST "RED"

Members Meet at Elks Lodge and Plan Big Americanization Celebration May 1.

There were only a few of the committee of 127 members on arrangements for "America day," May 1 who were not present at the first meeting, of the committee, which was held last night at the Elks lodge rooms.

Enthusiasm ran high and the day and vim evidenced augurs well for success of the celebration that is planned.

Mayor Harry M. Schriver presided at the meeting and talked on the purpose of the celebration. He explained that like celebrations are to be held in every city of the United States of over 5,000 population under the auspices of the National Security league.

The mayor pointed out the need of the rejuvenation of the spirit of Americanism among the American born as well as foreigners in order to stamp out bolshevism and anarchism.

He told of an instance where a young man from a small village near Rock Island came into the city and worked for six weeks and then went back to his home talking bolshevism and making threats. The mayor said that those who are passing on such education as that must be brought to a stop. He stressed the point that a strong effort must be made to educate and assimilate the alien who comes to live in the United States. The mayor informed the members of the committee that each had been chosen as a representative of some organization and that each was expected to take the message of the committee before their organization and find out what their organizations will do toward making the celebration a success. He announced that the Elks lodge had already pledged to furnish a band and that the Amoo groto would also furnish a band. He asked that all pastors explain the purpose of the celebration from their pulpits, and urged that the members of all organizations find foreign born citizens to march with them in the big parade that is to be held.

R. S. Randall speaks. Mayor Schriver then introduced R. S. Randall, organizer for the

Community Service, Incorporated, a national organization, who made a stirring address. Mr. Randall has had 17 years' service in community service work and has been in Moline for the last month organizing a branch of the service in that city.

"I am heartily in favor of the 'America day' celebration idea," Mr. Randall said.

"In the 17 years that I have spent in community service work it has been impressed upon me that there is a big work to be undertaken in educating and assimilating the foreigner who comes to our shores. I have met with foreigners in every state in the union and at first it is hard to understand them. A visitor in their midst will invariably find them in some celebration of a custom that they brought with them from the old countries. However, after you come to understand them and to understand why they came to the United States a desire is born to add them to become good citizens so that they might better understand our ways, customs and laws. You want to help them succeed here by instilling in them an understanding of American institutions. However, in this work of education there is a certain irony. It has been my experience that all literature that is tendered to the foreign born in an effort to educate them is couched in language that only a high school graduate can understand. It is impossible to add these people in such a way. It is likewise impossible to simply tell them to become good citizens. This is as impossible as to tell a 10-year-old boy to immediately become a full grown educated man."

"However, it is not only the foreign born who are in need of education of Americanism. We have numbers of citizens, among whom are many of American birth, who need to be stirred up. There are numbers of citizens who rant everything. They rant over politics and over their employers. However, these ranters, who always rant at 'the politician' are always the ones who do not vote, and the ones who rant at the employer are in almost every instance the ones who do not work."

Mr. Randall gave other and numerous illustrations of the need to stir up the spirit of Americanism among all citizens, and his remarks were punctuated with applause.

Mayor Skinner speaks. Mayor Schriver then called upon Mayor C. P. Skinner of Moline. Mayor Skinner congratulated the committee on its enthusiasm and the strong attendance at the meeting. He said that Mr. Randall and he were going to attend a like meet-

ing in Moline. He explained that a branch of the community service work was being organized in Moline and said that he hoped the work would be spread throughout the country, and would prove a big benefit to the entire community.

Sub-committee Appointed. Mayor Schriver said that he had given considerable thought on ways of making the celebration a success and that he had decided that sub-committees should be appointed to take charge of detail work. On the mayor's call for what action the committee might take in this matter a motion was made by Joseph E. Prendergast that a committee of three be named to appoint the committees. The motion carried and the mayor appointed Mr. Prendergast, Sam Ryerson and Rev. C. P. O'Neill.

The committee retired from the room and in a half hour returned with the following report on committees which was adopted.

Finance Committee. Walter A. Rosenfeld, John W. Potter, Joseph Prendergast, Ben Jacobson, J. L. Vernon, W. G. Johnston, C. A. Beers, Phil Mitchell and A. N. Bort.

Decorating Committee. Joe Tuckis, Otto Priester and William H. Lettner.

Arrangements Committee. Sam Ryerson, Paul R. Preston, Otto F. Hildebrandt, Walter Griffin, E. C. Fisher, Dave Brady, George R. Stephenson, T. B. Reidy and Emil Cabooter.

Music and Program Committee. John H. Hauberg, Mrs. Joe Tuckis and Miss Katherine Gest.

Publicity Committee. H. P. Simpson, B. O. Utecht, J. J. Quinn and Charles Reagan.

Armed Federation Committee. C. A. Williams, William T. Dunn and A. Parks.

Tri-City Federation Committee. Ben Jacobson, J. C. Kinsey and P. J. Carlson.

After the committee report had been adopted Mayor Schriver called upon several persons to make known their opinions on the proposed celebration.

Dr. Gustav A. Andreen, president of Augustana college, announced that he was highly pleased with the

plan. He said that he deemed it one of the biggest things that could be attempted and said that Augustana would ask for a large reservation in the parade.

Rev. Samuel Van Peit, pastor of the First Methodist church, when called upon stated that the plan entirely met with his opinions of creating a stronger spirit of Americanism and said that he would give his fullest support to the move.

Dean P. H. Durkin, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic church, announced his approval of the plan in every respect. He said that he believed that members of the committee representing racial groups should be asked to serve on the various arrangement committees in order to show them that they really are taken into account in the formation of American institutions and ways. His statement called forth the approval of Mayor Schriver.

Attorney Harry M. McCaskrin, representing the legal fraternity, stated that the plan was the best that he had ever heard of. He said that such a move was imperative to bring out the fullest demonstration of Americanism. Mr. McCaskrin asserted that the law is a cold matter to the foreigner who does not understand, and that they all should be brought to know that by the ballot they form the law and not the judges, attorneys and jurists who are the instruments of the law.

Mrs. William J. Sweeney, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, announced that this organization had for a long time been working for the Americanization of the foreign born, and that she could offer the heartiest support of the organization in the present move.

Rev. C. P. O'Neill, pastor of the Sacred Heart Catholic church, stated that he thought a number of Americans were as much in need of Americanization as some of the foreign born. He declared that it was his opinion that more harm is done by Americans in fostering bolshevism and anarchism than is

done by foreigners. He said the real leaders are not foreigners, but American born citizens. He urged that every move be made to overcome the action of those radicals and offered his entire support.

Ben Jacobson, president of the Tri-City Federation of Labor, said that labor had always worked for the Americanization of the foreign-born. He said that labor had always worked to educate the foreigners to the labor way of thinking, of course, but said that the manner of education was only a

difference of opinion, and that every man who works is more than glad to enter into a plan for Americanizing the foreign-born. He offered the support of the federation in the move.

George R. Stephenson, manager of the Watch Tower, told of how as a boy in New York city he had played with foreign-born children and had come to know their ways. He told of the vast need for educating these people, and as an illustration of how advantage can be taken of the foreign-born he told

a humorous instance of how boys would steal fruit from vendors on certain days that, as a result of some custom, the vendor would not make any complaint when made the victim of a theft on that day. He asserted that when a person

comes to thoroughly understand the spirit of Americanization they are glad to be alive and breathe the air of freedom. After the meeting adjourned the various committees got together to launch their preliminary work.

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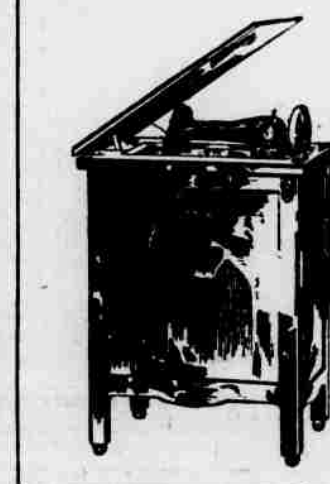
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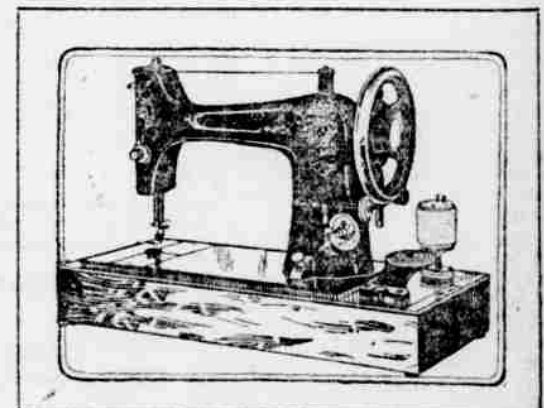
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